

TIPPECANOE COUNTY TREASURER NEWSLETTER



APRIL 20, 2007

This is really a difficult time we live in, isn't it? We have property owners complaining about how property taxes are unfair and forcing people out of their homes. And we also have local governments complaining that they don't have enough revenue to provide all the services the citizens need. Courts and jails are overflowing and the State is giving local government's unfunded mandates.

My experience has been with county government and we run a lean operation. The amount of funds needed for Health Insurance for the Tippecanoe County employees is \$350,000 higher in 2007 than in 2006. Property Taxes going to the County General Fund should increase about \$675,000 so over 50% of our new property tax revenue goes directly to pay increased health insurance premiums. You add on a 2% wage increase and the new money is all gone. Property taxes are tough for everyone, not just the taxpayers, they are too high for those paying and too low for those receiving.

Robert A. Plantenga

2007 Property Tax Bills

The 2007 Property Tax Bills have not yet been mailed due to concern over possible changes to the amounts which will be due.

The State Senate has added amendments to House Bill 1478 which would increase the amount of Homestead Credit the State pays for each owner occupied home that has filed for the Homestead deduction.

The session of the General Assembly must be finished by April the 29th. At that point, we should know how to proceed.

State statute requires the Treasurer to send out tax bills at least 15 days prior to the due date. When bills are sent, a few more days than the required will be allowed realizing the taxing entities need the tax funds as quickly as possible.

Tax Billing Timeline

Below is a general timeline of the events to happen prior to printing of tax bills.

1. Certification of net taxable assessments is sent to Department of Local government Finance (DLGF) by the County Auditor
2. DLGF calculates tax rates needed to generate needed funds
3. Auditor receives the rates and calculates taxes on each individual record for real estate, personal property and mobile homes
4. County Auditor billing is approved by the Auditor of State
5. Due date (if after normal May 10 date) is set by Co Auditor & Treasurer and approved by DLGF
6. Printing of the bills can occur after Auditor of State billing approval
7. Mailing of tax bills